

Open Academy Newsletter – 19 January 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to this week's newsletter – and I'm back! I am most grateful to Mr Ward for filling in for me by writing the newsletter last week whilst I was out at a headteacher conference. It was great to read about how our curriculum is structured to support pupils, even if they have to miss a day of school through illness and to see what resources are made available online to support learning.

This week I would like to start with congratulations to a member of staff. Miss Rednall has once again proved she is the best female bowler in the world by winning her 6th World Matchplay ladies title – and she is not even 30 yet! If you didn't see the final or don't know much about the world of indoor bowls, you can still see both her semi-final and final matches on BBC iPlayer as they were broadcast live on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. How anyone can remain that calm in such a high-pressure situation is beyond me! Even more amazing is that Miss Rednall was teaching classes on Wednesday morning before driving over to the coast at lunchtime and winning the semi-final in the afternoon (we did actually give her a whole day off for the final)! I will therefore reflect again how privileged we are to have such a talent on our staff team.

On that theme, I have managed to secure a donation of two good second hand indoor bowling mats and bowls, so I am hoping to persuade Miss Rednall to start a club in school. When you have a multiple world title winner who has represented England internationally, it would be a shame to miss that opportunity!

I will also share this week that we are delighted to welcome Mrs Rogers in the library who is already getting library activities up and running. She will meet the school council next week, as a new librarian was one of their top priorities for the academy to secure, where she will hear more about the kind of activities and experience students would like from the library.

Finally, this week, and staying on the theme of student leadership, I know lots of students have enjoyed some training as peer mentors and supporters and I look forward to those programs starting to grow. Mr Dilley and I have agreed that as the weather warms up, the mentors will be allowed to use the amphitheatre area outside the science rooms at break and lunch to create a quiet gentle outdoor space for students in Key Stage 3. The next meeting of the student council will discuss this work as well as meet the new librarian, and we are also looking forward to being joined for the meeting by the Mayor of Norwich and the High Sheriff of Norfolk, who will be talking to the students about soft power, influence and civic duty. So as usual lots going on and far too much from me, so I'll stop there and hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter.

Jon Ford
Principal

1. Updates

Parents Evening Dates

To clarify, we have the following dates for parent evenings in 2024:

Year 12/13 on Wednesday, 24 January
Year 11 on Tuesday, 13 February
Year 9 on Tuesday, 26 March
Year 8 on Tuesday, 23 April
Year 7 on Tuesday, 18 June

All parent's evenings apart from Year 12/13 will be in the Academy.

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>


Year 7 and 8 Hubs


We have identified that some students may be encountering challenges in maintaining the completion of their homework. To provide additional support, we have allocated spaces in our afterschool Homework HUB.

This initiative is designed to assist students who find it difficult to work at home or lack access to a device or the internet. Your child if identified will be invited to collaborate with their Assistant Head of Year, who will be available for support from 3 pm to 4 pm on Mondays in the IT rooms.

Mr Fisher
Assistant Principal

2. Library






MRS ROGERS

READING CORNER

JANUARY 2024

LIBRARY NEWS FROM OPEN ACADEMY

Hello,
I'm Mrs Rogers, your new Librarian at Open Academy this year. It's been so lovely getting to meet you all over the past few weeks, thank you for being so welcoming!
I have lots of ideas for fun events, activities, and displays for the coming months, but I would love to hear all of your ideas as well.
I currently have a student suggestion box on the Library desk, so please pop a note in with any ideas or requests that you have!
I want the Library to serve as a really welcoming, calm, and safe space for all of the students here at Open, and I'm sure we can all work together to make that happen!

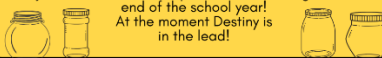


Word Of The Month
Bumbershoot
Another word for an umbrella

Library Rules To Remember

- You need a Library pass to get into the Library at Lunchtime. You can get one from Mrs Rogers during break.
- No food or drink in the Library.
- The Library is a quiet & calm space for reading, studying, and quietly playing games. It's not a hangout space. If you're too loud you will be asked to leave.


Library Competition
We're running a house competition in the Library! Every time you check out or return a book, you get to put a bead in your house jar and there will be a prize for the winning house at the end of the school year!
At the moment Destiny is in the lead!



Upcoming Dates:

- Thursday 25th January** - The library will be closed this day as Mrs Rogers is away for training.
- Monday 29th January** - National Puzzle Day! Come to the Library at lunch for some puzzling fun!
- Wednesday 7th February** - We're celebrating World Read Aloud Day with a special event in the Library! During lunch, staff members will be reading aloud from their favourite short stories, poems, and books. Tickets will be available in the Library soon!

Library Clubs will be starting again soon. Please let Mrs Rogers know what kinds of clubs you're most interested in.



Mrs Rogers
Librarian

<https://www.open-academy.org.uk/our-academy/news/newsletters/>

3. Year 7

Another great week again at Open in Year 7. I would like to start with a big thank you for all your support with uniform, it is great to see them all so smart around the Academy. This week in assembly I talked to Year 7 about aspiration and attendance, we are the second best in the school for attendance, that's great but I want to be top. Like the theme of my assembly I aspire to be the best year group for attendance and together we can make sure we chase that top spot and make it our own.

The winner of the tutor challenge this week is Respect with Stefan winning the tie-breaker question which was 'how many bathrooms are there in the white house' he got closest with 10 with the answer being 35.

The best attendance this week is Respect, so a massive congratulations to them and LMH.

The top achievers this week are, Lincoln J, Ashanti G, Harrison A, Lacey-Mae M, Pheobe B, Dante D, Ellie-Mae P, Sarah O, Harvey B, Amalie T, Alfie H, Pheobe-May A.

Teacher praise:

7M1 Maths been awesome this week - Mrs Power

All my form for listening really well in tutor reading literacy thing, and for German Ella Mai P and Charlie SI for good work (of different kinds) and Elliot C for good answers and thinking - Mr Blanchflower

Joel M for consistently excellent answers in History – Mr Walters

Teja M for German – Mrs McEvoy

Tej and Elias got over 90% in their Maths assessment for assessment point one – Mrs Power

Mr Lambert (Head of Year 7)
Mrs Roe (Assistant Head of Year 7)

4. Year 9

Students of the week:
Rianna A and Jasmin C.

Top Achievers since 4 Jan 2024:
Rianna A, Samuel O, Millie C, Eliza S, Kaitlin W, Rodrigo F, Jenson L, Noam M, Lily A, Jasmin C, Kate S And Olivier K.

English:
Ms Roberts has been super impressed with these pieces of work from Kiera and Martina this week

Dulce et Decoram

wednesday 17 january

Walt: explore the convention of poetry & comment on how they affect the reader.

I think there is a significance in the poem's title because the title doesn't fit its irony. He is saying that, as he doesn't and the title doesn't prepare us for the gore and imagery depicted of what happened in the war, so Owen doesn't believe and he is showing us that the title Dulce et Decorum (meaning 'sweet and noble') doesn't tell us what and how war really felt to those who were involved. I don't think that he really believes in this sentiment.

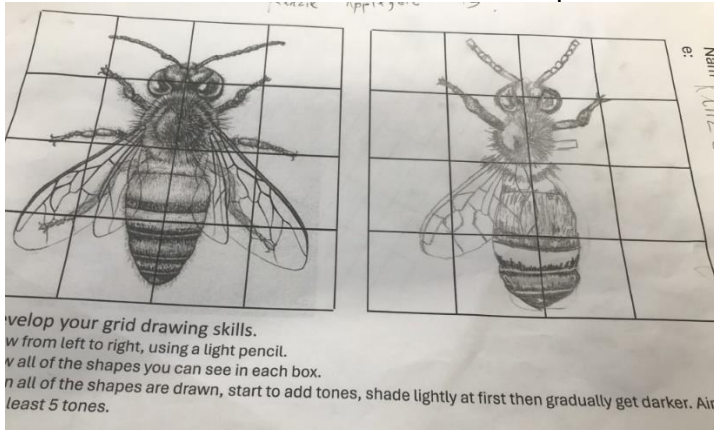
The theme of Dulce et Decorum is about war and conflict and him trying to tell us the reality of war and the trauma they went through, and by him using his figurative language gives these images in our head to really show us that it was more violent and really makes us understand why he wrote what he did. The quote 'fitting the clumsy helmets just in time', this quote really makes me understand and gives me imagery of them getting their helmets on ready to go to battle again, knowing they could lose their lives.

Owen uses figurative language to convey the aggression and fear of the weaponry by using a personification, 'monstrous anger of the guns'. This quote tells the reader that the guns are being used incessantly and violently as suggested with negative connotations with anger. By using this method, Owen makes the reader feel perturbed by the hostility and the constant use of the weapons that provokes anxiety and desperation of escaping because the personification also tells the reader about the sound of the guns like when the 'monstrous anger' implies, and they are afraid of the ordnance as said a feeling of escaping. It feels and sounds like the noise they make is horribly loud and unpleasant to the ears that mimics the sound of roars that fits and resembles like that of a monster and monsters are scary just like the war as it shows.

9P and 9H have worked really well this week in English and have produced some fantastic artwork based on World War 1 poems and propaganda – Ms Roberts

Art:

Shout out to Kenzie A - Mr Walters was impressed with this piece of work this week.



Mrs Power (Head of Year 9)
Mrs Edwards (Assistant Head of Year 9)

5. Year 10

Thank you for those who were able to attend parents evening, it is great to be able to do these in person again, rather than online!

If you were unable to attend and have any concerns or would like some individual feedback please either email the class teacher directly or contact the pastoral team.

Work experience forms need to come back to us asap, please encourage your child to return the form that may be lurking at the bottom of their bag, or if they are struggling to find a place, please ask them to speak to their tutor or the pastoral team. It is really important that they are chasing up emails or phone calls as businesses often need prompting to respond.

This week in assembly I introduced students to the website 'Help You Choose' and today in tutor time students had the opportunity to browse the website for themselves. In particular I asked students to look under the info and advice tab where there is information about the different opportunities after GCSEs, e.g. apprenticeships, A-levels, BTECs and whether a 6th Form college or school with 6th Form may suit them. I appreciate they may not know what they want to do but it may be helpful for them to understand what their options are.

Course applications open in September and particularly those hoping to do a vocational course need to apply quickly as course are offered on a first come, first served basis.

The website doesn't require log in details to view information but does to set up their profile. Log in details are issued in June /July. Setting up their profile is advantageous as it allows students to apply for multiple courses online without having to fill in all their details for each application. We will do more sessions on this when log in details are released.

Well done to the following students for gaining the most achievement points:

Brandon P, Chelsea B, Oscar-Jay B, Roseanne G and Tyler H

And a well done from Mrs McEvoy - A massive shout out for Roxane R in German. Great effort in red folder work.

Mrs Pearsall Ms Whitwood (Heads of Year 10)

Mrs Lamb (Assistant Head of Year 10)

6. Careers

If you are a parent/carer of a Year 10 student please encourage your young person in their search for a work experience placement for our WEX week 8-12 July. The deadline for forms to be returned has now been set by Norfolk County Council – Wednesday, 27 March 2024.

Work Experience is a very valuable part of students' education with those who succeed in finding their own placement gaining greater confidence and maturity. Completed forms should be returned to me as soon as possible so that Health and Safety checks can take place in good time. If you have any questions please contact the Year 10 team or me at caroline.davies@open-academy.org.uk. Replacement 'Student Self-Placement' forms are also available in S12.

Dr Davies

Assistant Head of 6th Form

Careers Guidance & Development

7. Year 11

We are now halfway through their final PPEs (mocks) and the year group is showing their determination to succeed by using their time outside the exam hall to recall past knowledge and practice those crucial skills to succeed. These exams are the last chance we have to see what areas need to be worked on to ensure all are ready to achieve in the summer. Yes, some may struggle and yes some may make mistakes, but that is the purpose. From the results we will be able to craft a plan to help all thrive. Finally, without failure, practice and the determination to try again, no one would be where they are today. If there is anything you feel needs to be changed/adapted/improved then please let us know.

Learnt points: For this week the total amount of learnt points achieved is an amazing 85. Well done everyone.

The following students have had a great week filled with achieved:

Rosie C, Billy B, Felix CS, Sienna B, Scarlet B, Emily-Jayne C, Lucy E, Deon E, Thomas J and Mayling T.

Positive Praise:

Max L and Ara R for having a great focus in German.

Alice G and Jessica B for going the distance and further in English. Excellent attitude.

Ebon G, Jake T, Star C & Hollie S for remaining determined to achieve in History

Business Students:

We have several textbooks and revision resources in the classroom for students to access. However, if you would like your child to have their own to take home to help with homework and revision, we can recommend the following:

- Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing J837 Exam Practice and Workbook by Tess Bayley - £5.99 from Amazon
- OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Enterprise and Marketing: Illustrated Revision and Practice (ClearRevise OCR Cambridge Nationals Enterprise and Marketing J837) - £8.00 from Amazon
- Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing J837 by Tess Bayley and Leanna Oliver - £26 from Amazon

Students will be receiving their PPE results before the end of the half term. Also, a date for your diary, 13 February is going to be the Year 11 parents evening. This will be a great opportunity to come and talk to your child's teachers in person. Once again thank you for all your support at home, it really makes a difference to the education and growth of the students. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Pickup (Head of Year 10)
Mrs Smith (Assistant Head of Year 10)

8. 6th Form - UCAS Final Reminder

A final few have yet to complete UCAS. We are fast approaching the deadline. Please ensure that this is completed asap. If you need help from any of the 6th Form staff, please get in contact with one of us. On the other hand, huge well done to those of you that are getting offers through already! How very, very exciting!

Mrs Molloy
Head of 6th Form

9. Chaplain's Thought for the New Year



You are all in my thoughts and prayers

Mark Pimlott
Chaplain



Norfolk Area SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy (NASAPS) community engagement events

Parents/carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the professionals who work with them, are invited to attend one of the free NASAPS events taking place across the county this spring term.

Learn about the plans for improving SEND services and support in Norfolk from representatives from Norfolk County Council, and their partners.



Eventbrite



Facebook

Secure your place by booking through either [Eventbrite](#) or [Facebook](#), selecting from one of the dates below:

Date	Time	Where
Wednesday 17 January	10:00am - 12:00pm	Great Yarmouth Library
Wednesday 24 January	10:00am - 12:00pm	Swaffham Assembly Room
Thursday 25 January	10:00am - 12:00pm	Young's Park, Aylsham
Monday 29 January	10:00am - 12:00pm	Charles Burrell Centre, Thetford
Wednesday 31 January	10:00am - 12:00pm	Sheringham Community Centre
Tuesday 6 February	10:00am - 12:00pm	Fairstead Community Centre, King's Lynn
Thursday 8 February	10:00am - 12:00pm	Harford Community Centre, Norwich

Why should I attend?

- Learn about the new SEND strategy including themes, priorities, actions and how these were chosen
- Hear from senior leaders at Norfolk County Council and their partners
- Find out how you can get more involved
- Tell us your views on our SEND plans for 2024-2029
- Learn more about SEND services and support by visiting the information stands
- Share your experiences
- Talk to other parents/carers and professionals across education, health and social care
- Complimentary refreshments.

Complimentary refreshments

Secure your free place today by using the above booking links

If you have any questions or would like to speak to the team, please contact us:
send@norfolk.gov.uk | norfolk.gov.uk/send

